OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

After reviewing data collected from **Goose Pond, Canaan,** the program coordinators have made the following observations and recommendations.

Thank you for your continued hard work sampling the pond this year! Your monitoring group sampled the deep spot **three** times this year! As you know, conducting multiple sampling events each year enables DES to more accurately detect water quality changes. Keep up the good work!

We encourage your monitoring group to continue utilizing the Colby Sawyer College Water Quality Laboratory in New London. This laboratory was established to serve the large number of lakes/ponds in the greater Lake Sunapee region of the state. This laboratory is inspected by DES and operates under a DES approved quality assurance plan. We encourage your monitoring group to utilize this laboratory next summer for all sampling events, except for the annual DES biologist visit. To find out more about the Colby Sawyer College Water Quality Laboratory, and/or to schedule dates to pick up bottles and equipment, please call Bonnie Lewis, laboratory manager, at (603) 526-3486.

In 2007, DES met on-site with the Goose Pond Lake Association (GPLA) and the Town of Hanover Department of Public Works (DPW) to propose several stormwater improvements for the Wolfeboro Road Bridge crossing of Marshall Brook at the north end of the pond. Currently, Wolfeboro Road, which is gravel, and the shoulders of Goose Pond Road frequently erode and wash into Marshall Brook. Phosphorus, the limiting nutrient for plant and algal in Goose Pond, binds to sediment. Phosphorus bound sediment can be made available to plants and algae by desorption or biological mineralization.

The GPLA and Hanover DPW made several suggestions on how to mitigate sediment transport and discharge to Marshall Brook, including turn-outs, retention areas, headwall improvements, bridge improvements, and a reduction in exposed gravel areas.

FIGURE INTERPRETATION

CHLOROPHYLL-A

Figure 1 and Table 1: Figure 1 in Appendix A shows the historical and current year chlorophyll-a concentration in the water column. Table 1 in Appendix B lists the maximum, minimum, and mean concentration for each sampling year that the pond has been monitored through VLAP.

Chlorophyll-a, a pigment found in plants, is an indicator of the algal abundance. Algae (also known as phytoplankton) are typically microscopic, chlorophyll producing plants that naturally occur in lake ecosystems. The chlorophyll-a concentration measured in the water gives biologists an estimation of the algal concentration or lake productivity. The median summer chlorophyll-a concentration for New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is 4.58 mg/m³.

The current year data (the top graph) show that the chlorophyll-a concentration *decreased gradually* from **May** through **September**.

The historical data (the bottom graph) show that the **2008** chlorophyll-a mean is *slightly less than* the state median and is *slightly greater than* the similar lake median. For more information on the similar lake median, refer to Appendix F.

Overall, the statistical analysis of the historical data (the bottom graph) show that the mean annual chlorophyll-a concentration has **not significantly changed** (neither *increased* nor *decreased*) since monitoring began. Specifically, the chlorophyll-a concentration has remained **relatively stable**, **ranging between approximately 2.0 and 5.0 mg/m³** since **1989**. However, after several years of low and relatively stable chlorophyll-a concentrations (1993-2006), the last two years have shown higher chlorophyll-a concentrations in the lake. Please refer to Appendix E for a detailed statistical analysis explanation and data print-out.

Please note that this trend is based upon historical data obtained through the University of New Hampshire Lay Lakes Monitoring Program (UNH LLMP). The historical data up to 2003 are included in Table 1 in Appendix B.

While algae are naturally present in all ponds, an excessive or increasing amount of any type is not welcomed. In freshwater ponds, phosphorus is the nutrient that algae typically depend upon for growth in New Hampshire lakes. Algal concentrations may increase as nonpoint sources of phosphorus from the watershed increase, or

as in-lake phosphorus sources increase. Therefore, it is extremely important for volunteer monitors to continually educate all watershed residents about management practices that can be implemented to minimize phosphorus loading to surface waters.

TRANSPARENCY

Figure 2 and Tables 3a and 3b: Figure 2 in Appendix A shows the historical and current year data for transparency with and without the use of a viewscope. Table 3a in Appendix B lists the maximum, minimum and mean transparency data without the use of a viewscope and Table 3b lists the maximum, minimum and mean transparency data with the use of a viewscope for each year that the pond has been monitored through VLAP.

Volunteer monitors use the Secchi disk, a 20 cm disk with alternating black and white quadrants, to measure how far a person can see into the water. Transparency, a measure of water clarity, can be affected by the amount of algae and sediment in the water, as well as the natural color of the water. **The median summer transparency for New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is 3.2 meters.**

The current year data (the top graph) show that the non-viewscope inlake transparency *increased* from **May** to **July**, and then *decreased* from **July** to **September**.

The historical data (the bottom graph) show that the **2008** mean non-viewscope transparency is **slightly greater than** the state median and is **less than** the similar lake median. Please refer to Appendix F for more information about the similar lake median.

The current year data (the top graph) show that the viewscope in-lake transparency *increased slightly* from May to July, and then *decreased slightly* from July to September. The transparency measured with the viewscope was generally *greater than* the transparency measured without the viewscope this summer. As discussed previously, a comparison of the transparency readings taken with and without the use of a viewscope shows that the viewscope typically increases the depth to which the Secchi disk can be seen into the lake, particularly on sunny and windy days. We recommend that your group measure Secchi disk transparency with and without the viewscope on each sampling event.

It is important to note that viewscope transparency data are not compared to a New Hampshire median or similar lake median. This is because lake transparency with the use of a viewscope has not been historically measured by DES. At some point in the future, the New Hampshire and similar lake medians for viewscope transparency will be calculated and added to the appropriate graphs.

Overall, the statistical analysis of the historical data (the bottom graph) shows that the mean annual in-lake non-viewscope transparency has **not significantly changed** (either *increased* or *decreased*) since monitoring began. Specifically, the in-lake transparency has remained **relatively stable**, **ranging between approximately 3.5 and 6.0 meters** since **1989**. Please refer to Appendix E for the statistical analysis explanation and data print-out.

Please note that this trend is based upon historical data obtained through the University of New Hampshire Lay Lakes Monitoring Program (UNH LLMP). The historical data are not included in Table 3A in Appendix B.

Typically, high intensity rainfall causes sediment-laden stormwater runoff to flow into surface waters, thus increasing turbidity and decreasing clarity. Efforts should continually be made to stabilize stream banks, pond shorelines, disturbed soils within the watershed, and especially dirt roads located immediately adjacent to the edge of tributaries and the pond. Guides to best management practices that can be implemented to reduce, and possibly even eliminate, nonpoint source pollutants, are available from DES upon request.

TOTAL PHOSPHORUS

Figure 3 and Table 8: The graphs in Figure 3 in Appendix A show the amount of epilimnetic (upper layer) phosphorus and hypolimnetic (lower layer) phosphorus; the inset graphs show current year data. Table 8 in Appendix B lists the annual maximum, minimum, and median concentration for each deep spot layer and each tributary since the pond has been sampled through VLAP.

Phosphorus is typically the limiting nutrient for vascular plant and algae growth in New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. Excessive phosphorus in a lake/pond can lead to increased plant and algal growth over time. The median summer total phosphorus concentration in the epilimnion (upper layer) of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is 12 ug/L. The median summer phosphorus concentration in the hypolimnion (lower layer) is 14 ug/L.

The current year data for the epilimnion (the top inset graph) show that the phosphorus concentration *decreased slightly* from **May** to **September**.

The historical data show that the **2008** mean epilimnetic phosphorus concentration is *less than* the state median and *slightly greater than* the similar lake median. Refer to Appendix F for more information about the similar lake median.

The current year data for the hypolimnion (the bottom inset graph) show that the phosphorus concentration *decreased* from **May** to **July**, and then *increased* from **July** to **September**.

The historical data show that the **2008** mean hypolimnetic phosphorus concentration is *less than* the state and similar lake medians. Please refer to Appendix F for more information about the similar lake median.

Overall, visual inspection of the historical data for the epilimnion shows an *increasing* phosphorus trend. Specifically, the mean annual epilimnetic phosphorus concentration has *worsened* since monitoring began in **2007**.

Overall, visual inspection of the historical data trend line for the hypolimnion shows a **stable** phosphorus trend since monitoring began. Specifically the mean annual concentration has **remained approximately the same** since monitoring began in **2007**.

Please note that UNH LLMP historical data was not used to conduct a statistical analysis of the total phosphorus data. This is due different field collection methods between programs and therefore the data is not comparable.

Please keep in mind that these observations are based on limited data. As your group expands its sampling program to include additional events each year, we will be able to determine trends with more accuracy and confidence.

After 10 consecutive years of sample collection, we will be able to conduct a statistical analysis of the historical data to objectively determine if there has been a significant change in the annual mean phosphorus concentration since monitoring began.

TABLE INTERPRETATION

> Table 2: Phytoplankton

Table 2 in Appendix B lists the current and historical phytoplankton and/or cyanobacteria observed in the pond. Specifically, this table lists the three most dominant phytoplankton and/or cyanobacteria observed in the sample and their relative abundance in the sample.

The dominant phytoplankton and/or cyanobacteria observed in the May sample were *Dinobryon* (Golden-Brown), *Rhizosolenia* (Diatom), and *Synedra* (Diatom).

Cyanobacteria blooms have been noted in the pond during the past two summers. We recommend that you continue to monitor the pond for cyanobacteria blooms or surface scum conditions, and notify DES immediately if you observe these conditions. Certain cyanobacteria species are known to produce toxins that can be harmful to humans, pets and livestock.

Phytoplankton populations undergo a natural succession during the growing season. Please refer to the "Biological Monitoring Parameters" section of this report for a more detailed explanation regarding seasonal plankton succession. Diatoms and golden-brown algae populations are typical in New Hampshire's less productive lakes and ponds.

> Table 4: pH

Table 4 in Appendix B presents the in-lake and tributary current year and historical pH data.

pH is measured on a logarithmic scale of 0 (acidic) to 14 (basic). pH is important to the survival and reproduction of fish and other aquatic life. A pH below 6.0 typically limits the growth and reproduction of fish. A pH between 6.0 and 7.0 is ideal for fish. The median pH value for the epilimnion (upper layer) in New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is **6.6**, which indicates that the state surface waters are slightly acidic. For a more detailed explanation regarding pH, please refer to the "Chemical Monitoring Parameters" section of this report.

The mean pH at the deep spot this year ranged from **6.40** in the hypolimnion to **6.79** in the epilimnion, which means that the water is *slightly acidic*.

It is important to point out that the hypolimnetic (lower layer) pH was *lower (more acidic)* than in the epilimnion (upper layer). This increase in acidity near the pond bottom is likely due to the decomposition of organic matter and the release of acidic by-products into the water column.

Due to the state's abundance of granite bedrock and acid deposition received from snowmelt, rainfall, and atmospheric particulates, there is little that can be feasibly done to effectively increase pond pH.

> Table 5: Acid Neutralizing Capacity

Table 5 in Appendix B presents the current year and historical epilimnetic ANC for each year the pond has been monitored through VLAP.

Buffering capacity (ANC) describes the ability of a solution to resist changes in pH by neutralizing the acidic input. The median ANC value for New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is **4.8 mg/L**, which indicates that many lakes and ponds in the state are at least "moderately vulnerable" to acidic inputs. For a more detailed explanation about ANC, please refer to the "Chemical Monitoring Parameters" section of this report.

The mean acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) of the epilimnion (upper layer) was **3.0 mg/L**, which is **slightly less than** the state median. In addition, this indicates that the pond is **moderately vulnerable** to acidic inputs.

> Table 6: Conductivity

Table 6 in Appendix B presents the current and historical conductivity values for tributaries and in-lake data. Conductivity is the numerical expression of the ability of water to carry an electric current, which is determined by the number of negatively charged ions from metals, salts, and minerals in the water column. The median conductivity value for New Hampshire's lakes and ponds is **38.4 uMhos/cm**. For a more detailed explanation, please refer to the "Chemical Monitoring Parameters" section of this report.

The mean annual epilimnetic conductivity at the deep spot this year was **32.76 uMhos/cm**, which is **slightly less than** the state median.

The conductivity in the pond is relatively **stable** and **low**. Typically conductivity levels greater than 100 uMhos/cm indicate the influence of pollutant sources associated with human activities.

However, the conductivity in **Hinkson and Mourton Brooks** remains *slightly elevated*. Typically, increasing conductivity indicates the influence of pollutant sources associated with human activities. These sources include failed or marginally functioning septic systems, agricultural runoff, stormwater runoff, and road runoff which contains road salt during the spring snow-melt. New development in the watershed can alter runoff patterns and expose new soil and bedrock areas, which could also contribute to increasing conductivity. In addition, natural sources, such as iron and manganese deposits in bedrock, can influence conductivity.

We recommend that your monitoring group conduct stream surveys and rain event sampling along tributaries with *elevated* conductivity to help identify the sources.

For a detailed explanation on how to conduct rain event sampling and stream surveys, please refer to the 2002 VLAP Annual Report special topic article, which is posted on the VLAP website at

http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/categories/publications.htm, or contact the VLAP Coordinator.

It is possible that de-icing materials applied to nearby roadways during the winter months may be influencing the conductivity in the pond. In New Hampshire, the most commonly used de-icing material is salt (sodium chloride).

Therefore, we recommend that the **epilimnion** (upper layer) be sampled for chloride next year. This additional sampling may help us identify what areas of the watershed are contributing to the increasing in-lake conductivity.

Please note that the DES Limnology Center in Concord is able to conduct chloride analyses, free of charge, and the Plymouth State University Center for the Environment is able to conduct chloride analyses for a minimal fee. As a reminder, it is best to conduct chloride sampling in the spring as the snow is melting and during rain events.

> Table 8: Total Phosphorus

Table 8 in Appendix B presents the current year and historical total phosphorus data for in-lake and tributary stations. Phosphorus is the nutrient that limits the algae's ability to grow and reproduce. Please refer to the "Chemical Monitoring Parameters" section of this report for a more detailed explanation.

The total phosphorus concentration was **slightly elevated** (24 and 28 ug/L) in **Big Island Cove and Marshall Brooks** on the **May** sampling event. We recommend that your monitoring group conduct a stream survey and rain event sampling along this tributary so that we can determine what may be causing the elevated concentrations.

For a detailed explanation on how to conduct rain event sampling and stream surveys, please refer to the 2002 VLAP Annual Report special topic article, which is posted on the VLAP website at

http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/categories/publications.htm, or contact the VLAP Coordinator.

The total phosphorus concentration in **Hinkson and Mourton**

Brooks was *slightly elevated* (26 and 24 ug/L) on the September sampling event. The turbidity of the samples was also *elevated* (6.45 and 3.17 NTUs), which suggests that the stream bottom may have been disturbed while sampling or that erosion is occurring in the watershed.

When the stream bottom is disturbed, phosphorus rich sediment is released into the water column. When collecting tributary samples, please be sure to sample where the tributary is flowing and where the stream is deep enough to collect a "clean" sample free from organic debris and sediment.

If you suspect that erosion is occurring in this area of the watershed, we recommend that your monitoring group conduct a stream survey and rain event sampling along this tributary. This additional sampling may allow us to determine what is causing the *elevated* levels of turbidity and phosphorus.

For a detailed explanation on how to conduct rain event sampling and stream surveys, please refer to the 2002 VLAP Annual Report special topic article, which is posted on the VLAP website at http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/categories/publications.htm, or contact the VLAP Coordinator.

Table 9 and Table 10: Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Data
Table 9 in Appendix B shows the dissolved oxygen/temperature
profile(s) collected during 2008. Table 10 in Appendix B shows the
historical and current year dissolved oxygen concentration in the
hypolimnion (lower layer). The presence of sufficient amounts of
dissolved oxygen in the water column is vital to fish and amphibians
and bottom-dwelling organisms. Please refer to the "Chemical
Monitoring Parameters" section of this report for a more detailed
explanation.

The dissolved oxygen concentration was **high** at all deep spot depths sampled at the pond on the **May** sampling event. As thermally stratified ponds age, and as the summer progresses, oxygen typically becomes **depleted** in the hypolimnion (lower layer) by bacterial decomposition. Specifically, the loss of oxygen in the hypolimnion results primarily from biological organisms using oxygen to break down organic matter, both in the water column and particularly at the bottom of the pond where the water meets the sediment. The **high** oxygen level in the hypolimnion is a sign of the pond's overall good health. We hope this continues!

> Table 11: Turbidity

Table 11 in Appendix B lists the current year and historical data for in-lake and tributary turbidity. Turbidity in the water is caused by suspended matter, such as clay, silt, and algae. Water clarity is strongly influenced by turbidity. Please refer to the "Other Monitoring Parameters" section of this report for a more detailed explanation.

As previously discussed, the turbidity in the **Hinkson and Mourton Brook** samples was *slightly elevated* (6.45 and 3.15 NTUs) on the **September** sampling event, which suggests that the stream bottom may have been disturbed while sampling or that erosion is occurring in this area of the watershed. When the stream bottom is disturbed, sediment, which typically contains attached phosphorus, is released into the water column. When collecting tributary samples, please be sure to sample where the stream is flowing and where the stream is deep enough to collect a "clean" sample free from debris and sediment.

If you suspect that erosion is occurring in this area of the watershed, we recommend that your monitoring group conduct a stream survey and rain event sampling along this tributary. This additional sampling may allow us to determine what is causing the *elevated* levels of turbidity.

For a detailed explanation on how to conduct rain event sampling and stream surveys, please refer to the 2002 VLAP Annual Report special topic article, which is posted on the VLAP website at http://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/c

ategories/publications.htm, or contact the VLAP Coordinator.

> Table 12: Bacteria (E.coli)

Table 12 in Appendix B lists the current year and historical data for bacteria (E.coli) testing. E. coli is a normal bacterium found in the large intestine of humans and other warm-blooded animals. E.coli is used as an indicator organism because it is easily cultured and its presence in the water, in defined amounts, indicates that sewage **may** be present. If sewage is present in the water, potentially harmful disease-causing organisms **may** also be present.

The **Swimming Area** *E. coli* concentration was **slightly elevated** on the **July** sampling event. However, the concentration of **50** counts per 100 mL **was not greater than** the state standard of 88 counts per 100 mL for designated public beaches.

If you are concerned about bacteria levels at this beach, you may want conduct E.coli sampling next year on a weekend during heavy

beach use or after a rain event. Since *E.coli* die quickly in cool pond waters, testing is most accurate and most representative of the health risk to bathers when the bacteria source is present.

> Table 13: Chloride

Table 13 in Appendix B lists the current year and the historical data for chloride sampling. The chloride ion (Cl-) is found naturally in some surfacewaters and groundwaters and in high concentrations in seawater. Research has shown that elevated chloride levels can be toxic to freshwater aquatic life. In order to protect freshwater aquatic life in New Hampshire, the state has adopted **acute and chronic** chloride criteria of **860 and 230 mg/L** respectively. The chloride content in New Hampshire lakes is naturally low, generally less than 2 mg/L in surface waters located in remote areas away from habitation. The median epilimnetic chloride value for New Hampshire lakes and ponds is **5 mg/L**. Higher values are generally associated with salted highways and, to a lesser extent, with septic inputs. Please refer to the "Chemical Monitoring Parameters" section of this report for a more detailed explanation.

Chloride sampling was **not** conducted during **2008**.

> Table 14: Current Year Biological and Chemical Raw Data

Table 14 in Appendix B lists the most current sampling year results. Since the maximum, minimum, and annual mean values for each parameter are not shown on this table, this table displays the current year "raw," meaning unprocessed, data. The results are sorted by station, depth, and then parameter.

> Table 15: Station Table

As of the spring of 2004, all historical and current year VLAP data are included in the DES Environmental Monitoring Database (EMD). To facilitate the transfer of VLAP data into the EMD, a new station identification system had to be developed. While volunteer monitoring groups can still use the sampling station names that they have used in the past and are most familiar with, an EMD station name also exists for each VLAP sampling location. Table 15 in Appendix B identifies what EMD station name corresponds to the station names you have used in the past and will continue to use in the future.

DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTROL

Annual Assessment Audit:

During the annual visit to your pond, the biologist conducted a sampling procedures assessment audit for your monitoring group. Specifically, the biologist observed the performance of your monitoring group and completed an assessment audit sheet to document the volunteer monitors' ability to follow the proper field sampling procedures, as outlined in the VLAP Monitor's Field Manual. This assessment is used to identify any aspects of sample collection in which volunteer monitors failed to follow proper procedures, and also provides an opportunity for the biologist to retrain the volunteer monitors as necessary. This will ultimately ensure samples that the volunteer monitors collect are truly representative of actual lake and tributary conditions.

Overall, your monitoring group did an *excellent* job collecting samples on the annual biologist visit this year! Specifically, the members of your monitoring group followed the proper field sampling procedures and there was no need for the biologist to provide additional training. Keep up the good work!

Sample Receipt Checklist:

Each time your monitoring group dropped off samples at the laboratory this summer, the laboratory staff completed a sample receipt checklist to assess and document if your group followed proper sampling techniques when collecting the samples. The purpose of the sample receipt checklist is to minimize, and hopefully eliminate, improper sampling techniques.

Overall, the sample receipt checklist showed that your monitoring group did a **very good** job when collecting samples this year! Specifically, the members of your monitoring group followed the majority of the proper field sampling procedures when collecting and submitting samples to the laboratory. However, the laboratory did identify a few aspects of sample collection that your group could improve upon, as follows:

➤ **Tributary sampling:** Please do not sample tributaries that are not flowing. Due to the lack of flushing, stagnant water typically contains *elevated* amounts of chemical and biological constituents that will lead to results that are not representative of the quality of water that typically flows into the lake.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Best Management Practices to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution: A Guide for Citizens and Town Officials, DES Booklet WD-03-42, (603) 271-2975 or

www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-03-42.pdf.

Canada Geese Facts and Management Options, DES fact sheet BB-53, (603) 271-2975 or

www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-53.pdf.

Cyanobacteria in New Hampshire Waters Potential Dangers of Blue-Green Algae Blooms, DES fact sheet WMB-10, (603) 271-2975 or www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/wmb/docu ments/wmb-10.pdf.

Impacts of Development Upon Stormwater Runoff, DES fact sheet WD-WQE-7, (603) 271-2975 or

www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/aot/documents/wqe-7.pdf.

Lake Protection Tips: Some Do's and Don'ts for Maintaining Healthy Lakes, DES fact sheet WD-BB-9, (603) 271-2975 or www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/docume nts/bb-9.pdf.

Low Impact Development: Taking Steps to Protect New Hampshire's Surface Waters, DES fact sheet WD-WMB-17, (603) 271-2975 or www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/wmb/documents/wmb-17.pdf.

Road Salt and Water Quality, DES fact sheet WD-WMB-4, (603) 271-2975 or

www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/wmb/documents/wmb-4.pdf.

Shorelands Under the Jurisdiction of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, DES fact sheet SP-4, (603) 271-2975 or www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/sp/documents/sp-4.pdf.

Watershed Districts and Ordinances, DES fact sheet WD-WMB-16, (603) 271-2975 or

www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/wmb/documents/wmb-16.pdf.